

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SUMMIT

Information

House Bill 706, passed in the 2000 General Session, mandates that KIDS NOW, the governor's early childhood initiative, develop a multi-credential, seamless professional development system in early childhood in cooperation with the Council on Postsecondary Education. Ninety college faculty participated in 19 workgroups that have guided KIDS NOW since 1999.

The Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development also convened a meeting of early childhood education faculty and deans May 20, 2002, prior to the CPE faculty development conference in Louisville. Forty representatives from all of the state universities, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and St. Catharine College attended. The conference goal was to help faculty integrate into their programs new requirements and programs developed by the Early Childhood Development Authority.

Participants reviewed the professional development recommendations produced by the workgroups and approved by the Professional Development Council and the Early Childhood Development Authority. They received updates on the status of three new credentials for entry-level personnel—the Commonwealth Child Care Credential and credentials for early childhood directors and teacher trainers. They also heard a progress report on the KIDS NOW early childhood development scholarship program.

Faculty discussed a competency-based articulation framework that allows students in early childhood education to progress from certificate to associate and baccalaureate degrees at different institutions with no loss of credits.

Kim Townley will describe the outcomes of the conference and the next steps to be taken in cooperation with postsecondary institutions.